

TRANSEND

December 2006

A magazine for employees, retirees and stakeholders of the Arizona Department of Transportation

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A GAME OF "WHATZIS AND WHATCHAMACALLIT"

Harris and Green planning transportation history museum

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Happy Holidays

From the editorial board of

TRANSEND



Victor Mendez
Director

Ethics – a lifestyle for all

“At ADOT we conduct our business ethically; there will be no exceptions.”

That was my closing remark in this column in May 2006 when I addressed the subject of our ethical responsibility. And that remains the standard for the Arizona Department of Transportation now and in years to follow.

To ensure that this subject does not get lost in the daily rush of activities, I have established a program to ensure that everyone in ADOT is made aware of their moral and ethical responsibilities in conducting day-to-day government business. By now, all supervisors should have included a statement in every employee's EPAS that outlines ethical standards. Supervisors have also been instructed to discuss these standards one-on-one with their employees. Additionally, the ADOT Employee Code of Conduct has been posted on the agency Intranet.

To further assure that the ADOT family is well versed on the subject of business ethics, we have scheduled a two-day workshop conducted by Michael Josephson, founder and

president of the Josephson Institute of Ethics. He is also host of a radio commentary, *Character Counts*, on a Los Angeles radio station. Forty of ADOT's top leaders have been selected to attend this workshop and are expected to share the valuable information with their staffs. These principles of ethics in the government workplace must be passed along to the entire workforce at ADOT. No one is to be excluded from exposure to the Five Principles of Public Service Ethics.

Beginning with this issue of TRANSEND, we will publish a monthly column, *Practical Ethics*, where the fine points of principles and ethics will be reviewed. I encourage all to read the column.

I am aware that in the past the improper actions of a few have caused public scrutiny of the whole agency. We cannot risk future embarrassment, so we must take measures to ensure that all ADOT employees conduct business with integrity.

Sincerely,

Director



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Employees envision museum of transportation history

"WHATZIS AND WHATCHAMACALLIT"

By Ron Loar
Editor

Too much history has gone out to the junk pile."

That's the opinion of ADOT employees Bob Harris and Ed Green, who hope to stem the flow of transportation-related memorabilia and thereby preserve as much of Arizona's transportation past as possible.

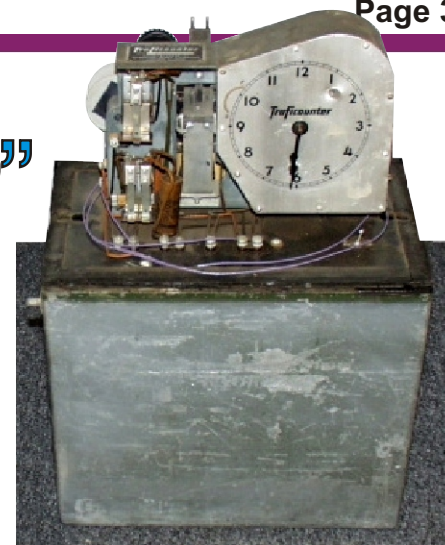
Harris and Green share an interest in establishing a museum where relics and photos of early transportation projects can be displayed. They have presented their idea to the Maintenance Servant Leadership Team (MSLT) to gain support in locating antiquated pieces of construction and office equipment that may be stored in various garages and offices. As they garner additional support, they hope to acquire a room in one of the ADOT buildings on the Phoenix campus in which to exhibit the memorabilia. Harris hopes that management will establish funds for display cabinets and shelves.

Some of the items they have salvaged include manual traffic counters, surveyor transits and rods, old mileposts and right-of-way markers, historical highway signs, cameras, calculators, tools, and first-aid kits. Their collection also includes old photographs of ADOT workers and

projects, as well as documents, reports and maps. Efforts are being made to identify people in the photos.

"The task of cataloging and labeling the items has become monumental," says Harris. He and Green play an on-going game as they endeavor to identify the purpose and nomenclature of found articles. One of them will hold up an item and ask the other, "What's this?" Not knowing the answer, the other will respond, "It's a whatchamacallit." Frequently one of them will call an item a "Thingamajig," or a "Doohicky." Green says, "Eventually we will have the proper name for all of these items."

(Continued on Page 4)



An early traffic counter that was powered by an automotive battery and recorded data on a spool of paper tape is just one of the relics that has been collected for the museum. Today, traffic counters are digital and transmit data via phone lines.



Equipment used by security guards in the Arizona Highway Department (circa 1960) includes this array of badges, a uniform patch, watchman's keys and a bubble light for their vehicle. Today's security service is contracted by professional security firms.

“WHATZIS AND WHATCHAMACALLIT”

(Continued from Page 3)

Not only are Harris and Green looking for outdated engineering and construction tools and equipment, they are seeking donations of outmoded office equipment and machines as well. “Manual typewriters, check-writers, calculators, video projectors, and drafting equipment – we’ll take them all, rather than see them sent to surplus property or tossed in the dumpster,” says Green. Harris echoes that statement with, “If it can fit in a pickup truck and doesn’t eat, we’ll take it.”

Of particular interest to the collectors are maps and documents that can help them chart the history of transportation in Arizona. “Photographs, too, are a great resource for us, particularly if they have peoples’ names and/or locations for identification purposes,” Harris adds.


Both men, somewhat “relics” of transportation themselves, have nearly 80 years of combined service with ADOT. Green has worked for ADOT since 1962, when the agency was still known as the Arizona Highway Department. Shortly after Harris was hired in 1966, the Highway Department was merged with the Aviation Department, and the agency became known as the Arizona Department of Transportation.

Finding some of the historical tools and equipment has caused the two men to reflect on their early history with ADOT. They used much of the equipment and tools in their first years with the Arizona Highway Department.

Green’s first job with the agency was as a summer aide doing origin/destination studies. “We used to select specific locations and set up

roadblocks, asking drivers where they were coming from and what their destination was. This helped in early planning of highway expansion,” he said. Today that information is recorded on electronic devices that detect traffic flow and volume. Green later worked in traffic research and was manager of the Data Team for the Transportation Planning Division.

Several years ago, Green took on the responsibility of overseeing the transfer of over 750,000 feet of celluloid film that was the forerunner of GPS/digital recording of the state highway (*see story on Page 3 of the July 2006 issue of TRANsend*). Currently, Green works for the Office of Environmental Services as hazardous materials coordinator.

Beginning as a stakeman on a survey crew, Harris spent 14 years in highway construction. Later, he was a highway maintenance analyst for ADOT before being promoted to manager of Contract Maintenance Services. At the time of his retirement in June 2004, Harris was manager of Facilities Maintenance. He has since returned to the agency as a consulting manager for highway feature inventory. 



Early surveying equipment has been collected for the transportation museum. Other survey equipment can be seen on the front cover of this issue.

**Have something to donate to
the museum? Telephone
Ed Green, 602.712.7768
or
Bob Harris, 602.712.7829**

Three new options available

Additional employee benefits offered

Your employee benefits just got better!

Beginning this month, ADOT employees will have the opportunity to participate in three new options as part of the Work-Life Benefits offered by the Arizona Department of Administration.

All employees will receive a State of Arizona Employee Discount Card from the Human Resources office. The free cards will be made available sometime after December 1, according to Carolyn Pitre Wright, manager of the State Work-Life Program at ADOA.

The card will qualify employees and their families for up to 50-percent discounts at participating restaurants, theaters, hotels, golf and ski resorts, as well as other participating merchants.

Learn more about new options at

www.yes.az.gov

or

www.hr.state.az.us/worklife

Employees now have the opportunity to purchase home or auto insurance (or a combination of both) from Travelers and Liberty Mutual Insurance companies. Several payment options including payroll deduction will be available, as well as free quotes and coverage counseling. "Lower rates are available through this group coverage," Wright says.

Employees will have the opportunity to purchase brand-name computers for home use. The only requirements to purchase a computer on the payroll deduction plan is that the employee has been on the job at least six months and has a valid major credit card or active bank account in the event the payroll deduction option is stopped.

Sarah Wuertz of the Employee Recognitions Office at ADOT said that the cards will be distributed to employees as soon as they are received by her office. "Please be patient while we implement this program throughout ADOT," Wuertz asks. When employees receive their cards, they are encouraged to go to the Web site listed below to activate the card and begin taking advantage of the program.

In addition to these three new offers, the ADOA Work-Life Programs include other employee benefits such as flexible work schedule; time off for sick leave and family medical leave; financial support in the form of deferred compensation, transit subsidy, and state-shared life and health insurance; community involvement programs including the State Employee Charitable Campaign, Employees Helping Employees and mentoring; career development through Arizona Government University (AzGU) and continuing education programs; and health and wellness programs that offer personal counseling and health screenings.



Employees retiring from ADOT recently, as reported by Human Resources, include:

Barbara J. Brown, ITD, Central Maintenance, 30 years

Conrado G. Carnero, ITD, Phoenix Construction District, 28 years

Eugene Baldwin, MVD, Sanders Port of Entry, 28 years

David M. Connors, ITD, Tucson Maintenance, 26 years

JoAn Price, ITD, Maintenance Management Services, 25 years

Isidro S. Baca, TSG, Equipment Services - Holbrook Shop, 23 years

Romolo A. Madrid, ITD, Globe District, 22 years

Pat Cusey – man of many hats

By Jodi Sorrell

Public Information Officer

Pat Cusey grabs a quick cup of coffee, settles into the chair behind the microphone and adjusts his headphones. It's time for his monthly interview on a local radio station in Sedona. His topic: construction activities on State Route 179.

SR 179 is a major artery for the area, and Cusey is somewhat of an authority on the subject, as well he ought to be. As the senior resident engineer on the project, Pat wears many hats. In addition to being the key contact between ADOT and the contractor, Pat plays a pivotal role in public relations activities for the project.

In his radio talk show Pat discusses the 9-mile SR 179 Improvement Project, which extends from just south of the Village of Oak Creek to the intersection with SR 89A (known as the "Y"). When completed, the roadway will have passing lanes, wider shoulders, dedicated turn lanes, raised medians and 11 roundabouts. This radio interview focuses on impacts of construction on travel times for motorists, and safety while traveling through or hiking near the construction area.



Pat Cusey

The two-lane road carries millions of tourists each year through one of the most pristine and unique areas of the world. It is also the only route connecting the business and residential communities of the greater Sedona area.

Construction began in September, but before construction signs hit the pavement, Cusey and other members of his team visited each business along the project to provide them with information and discuss the upcoming construction activity. Cusey also participates in an event called "Construction Chat." Every other Thursday, representatives from construction and public relations are available in the construction office to answer questions from merchants and residents regarding the project.

The improvement project is targeted for completion in early 2009. "The community has been heavily involved in this project through all stages of development," says Cusey. "Working with them on the final step of the construction process and seeing the vision come to life is very gratifying for me."

For more information about the SR 179 Improvement Project, visit:

www.scenic179.com

Practical Ethics The ADOT Way

By Karen Mills and
Dian Work

What are ethics?

Simply stated, ethics are moral principles of duty and virtue that prescribe **how we should behave** in all aspects of society – at work, home, school and in all relationships.

These principles include such character traits as honesty, integrity, respect and compassion for individuals, responsibility, fairness, and respect for law and authority.

In coming months, this column will deal with these topics. Some may find these to be sensitive issues, but they are crucial in the way we conduct business at ADOT.

We encourage you apply these principles in all aspects of your life.

Office of Environmental Services expanding staff

Three new coordinators have been added to the Office of Environmental Services, according to Todd G. Williams, director of OES for ADOT.

Wendy Terlizzi will be Water Quality Coordinator, responsible for leading the Statewide Stormwater Management Program. Williams says, "Wendy is already knowledgeable about this program. In her former position with the consulting firm of EcoPlan Associates, she was active in development of ADOT's stormwater program." Terlizzi has more than eight years' experience in environmental sciences. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in wildlife, fisheries and conservation biology from the University of California at Davis.

Mike Traubert joins ADOT as Coordinator of Plans and Permits. "He brings a broad range of environmental expertise he gained while working for 16 years at the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality," Williams says. Traubert received a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial engineering and psychology from Texas A&M University.

Donna Moran will be ADOT's Compliance Coordinator. She formerly served in a similar position with the Town of Gilbert. Williams says, "Donna has over 15 years' experience in implementing environmental regulations and is well versed in federal, state and local



Wendy Terlizzi

environmental laws." She received a Bachelor of Science degree in management from Grand Canyon University.

The Office of Environmental Services is a new office in ADOT that oversees all environmental programs for the agency. "Addition of these three new coordinators will help to enhance the department's commitment to a proactive environmental management program," says Williams, who was named to the leadership post in March.




Mike Traubert



Donna Moran

Other coordinators with OES include long-time ADOT employees Thor Anderson of Environmental Planning Group, and Bruce Eilerts of Natural Resources Management Group.

Nine environmental specialists will be added to the staff in coming months, according to Williams. 

Homeless veterans receive helping hand from MVD volunteers

By Jim Cullison

MVD Special Projects Manager

Close to 100 homeless veterans in the Phoenix area received a big boost toward improving their lives, thanks to 26 volunteers from the MVD Customer Service Program. Those employees took part in the Veterans Administration's "Stand Down for Homeless Veterans" event on October 28.

The Stand Down, which is staged annually, is designed to help disadvantaged veterans get off the streets and back on their feet. This year, MVD was requested to play an important role—provide the driver license or identification card that is so critical in landing a job.

Since it was a Saturday, MVD made its central Phoenix office at Washington and 28th Streets available for the event. The veterans were shuttled to the office by the VA. Earlier, they

had received haircuts, manicures and new clothes from the VA. They were required to be free of drug and alcohol dependence to qualify.


"When they arrived, they were just like anyone else," said Anne Yanofsky, North Central Region Customer Service Manager, who headed up the event for MVD. Most of the vets already had a record on the MVD database. Some had outstanding driving citations, but there was a judge on site who was able to set aside their fines in exchange for community service. That allowed the vets to have their driver licenses reinstated. The VA paid the reinstatement fee.

The veterans themselves were grateful for the aid. "They were overwhelmed that we would open an office just for them," said Anne. "That was gratifying to us." One vet had a job lined up and just needed his ID to start work the following Monday. "When he received it, he was overjoyed," she said.

"The VA chaplain came over in one of the shuttle vans to express his appreciation and to let us know we changed the lives of the homeless veterans that visited that day." Each of the veterans also made a point of thanking the MVD volunteers and shaking their hands.

The volunteers came from offices across metro Phoenix. Customer Service employees from many offices also donated money for refreshments. The donations enabled the MVD team to prepare a table decorated with flags and a red, white and blue tablecloth and to serve the visitors sandwiches, water and snacks.

"Each of the veterans had a story to tell, and it was really their day," said Anne. "It turned out to be a wonderful event, and it gave us all a good feeling."

MVD volunteers assisting with the VA Stand-down event included Edgard Baltodano, Reneé Barkley, Laura Brock, Joyce Cota, Kelly Daniels, Adren Dickson, Lee Durante, Tammy Glasses, Jackie Granata, Rita Kami, Santos Laguna, Susan Lusk, Trish Macias, Rosa Mendoza, Sylvia Ramirez, Helene Sparaga, Monica Smith, Kim Sperry, Jennifer Tischler, Alicia Torres, Theodora Tsilimidos, Maria Hernandez, Nydia Valenzuela, Rosa Valenzuela, Kari Villegas, and Anne Yanofsky. 



MVD volunteers put the finishing touches on the refreshment table as they await arrival of homeless veterans.

STATS

Safety Talk and Tidbits

By Sonya Herrera

Safety and Health Administrator

The holiday season is upon us. It is a time of joy and memory-making, but there are also hazards that we face. We increase our vehicular accident exposure during the holidays because many of us travel to spend time with family and friends.

We've often heard "*Don't drink and drive,*" but how many times have you heard "*Don't drive if you are tired*"? While driving tired is not against the law, it is just as hazardous as driving under the influence. The National Sleep Foundation did a study in 2000 which found that 20 percent of all motorists had dozed off at the wheel in the previous 12 months.

How can you tell if you are overly tired? Here are some of the symptoms: eyes closing or going out of focus, trouble keeping one's head up, inability to stop yawning, inability to remember driving the last few miles, drifting between lanes, tailgating, missing traffic signs, jerking the car back into the lane, and/or drifting off the

road. (National Sleep Foundation, 1966). If you are over-tired, don't get behind the wheel.

There are many research programs dedicated to better understanding the effects of tiredness on your ability to operate a vehicle safely. Some of the research suggests:

- Plan ahead if you're traveling for more than an hour at a stretch by getting adequate rest
- Avoid driving during the "red-eye hours" of midnight and 7 a.m.
- Consider putting off your car trip until the morning if you are tired
- If traveling with other adults, take turns at the wheel often
- Make frequent rest stops, especially if you are driving alone

We want you to have a safe and happy holiday season. Buckle up, don't drink and drive and don't operate a vehicle if you are overly tired. Your family needs you to come home safe and so does ADOT.


Environmental Services wins quality award for wildlife connectivity study

For their work on the Arizona Wildlife Linkages Initiative, the Office of Environmental Services has been selected to receive the Showcase in Excellence Award presented by the Arizona Quality Alliance.

Todd Williams, director of the Office of Environmental Services, will accept the award on behalf of ADOT when the annual awards are presented at a luncheon December 14 at the Chaparral Suites Resort in Scottsdale. Don Henniger, publisher of *The Business Journal of Phoenix*, will be master of ceremonies.

The award recognizes ADOT for process excellence in developing the wildlife program, a three-year study that identifies wildlife habitats in Arizona and barriers to habitat connectivity. These barriers include highways; residential, commercial and industrial developments and man-made canals that divide or isolate animals from their natural range. "Animals that may winter in one area, but migrate to other areas for breeding, grazing or shelter, are potentially cut off from their natural ranges by these barriers," explains Melissa Maiefski.

The study was implemented by Bruce Eilerts and Siobhan Nordhaugen of Natural Resources, along with Maiefski.

Also participating in the study were the US Forest Service, Arizona Game and Fish, Bureau of Land Management, Northern Arizona University, Sky Island Alliance and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. 

Transportation Planning Division

J. Garrison leads Data Bureau

Jami Rae Garrison of the Transportation Planning Division has replaced retired Frank McCullough as manager of the Data Bureau.

An eight-year employee of ADOT, Garrison has worked in Geographic Information Systems




Jami Garrison

(GIS) under McCullough. As manager of the Data Bureau, Garrison supervises the GIS, Data Collection and Data Management sections. Prior to coming to ADOT, she worked for the Arizona Department of Economic Security.

The GIS Section is responsible for developing and updating maps. These

include such standard charts as the state highway map, which depicts Interstates, US routes and state highways in Arizona; the functional classification map, which delineates the routes as Interstate, rural, urban, major or minor arterial or collector routes; state milepost map, which shows milepost locations in 10-mile increments; as well as metropolitan area maps, engineering and maintenance district maps, Indian reservations and rest area maps.

The Data Collection Section is responsible for recording traffic volume data on the 6,200-mile state highway system. This is primarily done using electronic traffic counters placed at strategic locations around the state. The Data Collection Section performs photo highway inventories, collects global positioning system (GPS) data, and maintains an annual log of length and geometric information on each state highway (see *TRANSEND* cover story, July 2006.) Much of this collected data is used to populate the maps produced by the GIS Section.

Information generated by the Data Collection System is used by the Data Analysis Section to evaluate traffic use and pavement conditions. The in-depth analysis is communicated in a Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) data base as required by the Federal Highway Administration. 

Milestones in Service

The following employees attained milestones for their length of service with ADOT:

40 years

Norman Fladoos, ITD, Engineering Survey
Bonnie J. Hartley, TSG, Procurement

30 years

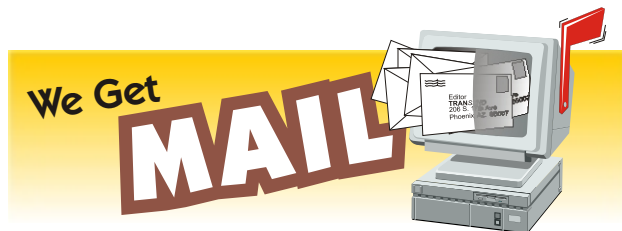
Sandra K. Graham, ITD, Maintenance Contracts
Mark E. Landry, ITD, Phoenix Regional Lab
Dana M. Taylor, ITD, Yuma Maintenance

25 years

Janet L. Gafford, TSG, Program Budget Analysis
Archie Lane, ITD, Tucson District
Bettina M. Moraila, MVD, Renew by Mail
William M. Robertson, TSG, Print Services

20 years

Larry G. Addison, ITD, Maintenance Planning
Benjamin Gamez, TSG, Audit and Analysis
Susana G. Macias, MVD, Collections and Refunds
Tom Martinez, MVD, Revenue
Patrick F. Schubert, ITD, Prescott District
Carol J. Torzewski, TSG, PC/LAN



Janis Heath of the Environmental Planning Group sent the following e-mail:

Hi Ron -

I think the monthly e-zine is absolutely fabulous! It is colorful with different text types/fonts, and something to attract my attention everywhere! Good job. It's a winner in my book. I'm so proud!

It would be nice to know who the volunteers are in such circumstances as the Katrina disaster (TRANsend, November, 2006.)

Janis Heath - ASO I

ADOT Environmental Planning Group

ED: Janis, thanks for your wonderful comments, and, of course, we appreciate your critique about the lack of volunteer names in the coverage of the Katrina disaster volunteers from ADOT. We, too, would like to have had the names of the volunteers; however, no one seemed to be able to provide a complete list. Rather than risk offending some by omission, we chose to identify project coordinators only. In the future, we will try harder to obtain full lists of participants in events.

Arizona is cleaner thanks to volunteers

Volunteers! What would the world be like without them?

In the case of Lake Havasu City and Sedona, those communities wouldn't be nearly as clean if not for the efforts of Adopt a Highway groups that are dedicated to keeping litter picked up in their area.

According to Stephanie Brown, ADOT's Statewide Adopt a Highway Coordinator, several groups received recognition of their good work at the Governor's Pride in Arizona Awards Conference held recently in Scottsdale at the Hotel Valley Ho. Among them was the SCF Workers Compensation Insurance group, which collects litter along 2 miles of State Route 95 south of Lake Havasu City. Their last three outings have netted more than 4,750 pounds of litter.

Another award-winning group drew high praise from Flagstaff District Engineer John Harper: "The Keep Sedona Beautiful group goes above and beyond the call of duty. It is not uncommon for them to offer to help other Adopt a Highway groups with their clean-up efforts if needed."

The Governor's Pride awards conference is held once a year, and anyone may nominate a group to receive an award. Nomination forms are available through the conference's sponsoring group, Arizona Clean and Beautiful, 602.262.2532 or azbeautiful@qwest.net.



Poetically speaking

Editor's note: Sometimes we are overcome by the muse in our campaign against littering:

Alliteration at Its Best

With all the trash that abounds,
On public streets and common grounds,
And all the garbage that lies in yards,
Or blows across our boulevards;

Does no one care to pick up after self,
So leave their litter to the litter-elf?
Or do they just expect that you and I,
Will pick up their trash as we walk by?

Cigarette butts and fast-food wrappers,
Tin cans, soda cups, and Sunday papers,
Styrofoam, and old boards with nails,
Mar our landscape, parks, and trails.

We are mired amid a mound of mess,
As litter is liberally left in excess.
Pick up, I plea with poetic passion,
Before America becomes a Litter Nation.

— Ron Loar